AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend as follows the paragraph on lines 12-13 of page 5 of the specification:

~~Fig. 3 is a perspective view~~ Figs. 3 and 10 are views of a companion flange having a female polygonal interface to match the interface of Fig. 2.

Please amend as follows the paragraph that begins on page 7, line 19 of the specification:

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of an axle pinion gear assembly 24 according to the present invention. Axle pinion gear assembly 24 is meant for use in automotive applications, such as in trucks and automobiles, although other applications may also take advantage of the present invention. The axle pinion gear assembly 24 includes a gear 26 at one end for interfacing with a differential. The axle pinion gear assembly also includes a threaded surface 28 at the opposite end for a nut that will secure a companion flange in an axial direction. The axle pinion gear includes a polygonal surface 30, described below, in this case a hexagonal surface with a slight concavity on each of the six surfaces. The polygonal interface secures the companion flange in a radial direction. The axle pinion gear also includes journals 32 and 34 for bearing surfaces. Fig. 3 depicts matching companion flange 38 for the axle pinion gear assembly 24. Companion flange 38 preferably has an outer surface with a plurality of holes 42 for attachment to a drive shaft yoke, and also has a polygonal surface 40 to match the polygonal surface 30 of the axle pinion gear. The polygonal surface 40 of the companion flange has a slight convexity to match the concave surfaces of the axle pinion gear. Fig. 10 depicts a close view of polygonal surface 40. It has an inner straight portion 40a, a central twisted portion 40b, and an outer straight portion 40c. The straight and twisted portions correspond to similar portions of axle pinion gear 29, depicted in Fig. 5.

Please amend as follows the paragraph that begins on page 8, line 12 of the specification:

The assembled parts are depicted in Fig. 4. Axle pinion gear 24 and its polygonal surface 30 fit into companion flange 38 and its matching polygonal surface 40. The holes of the flange are available for mounting to a drive shaft yoke (not shown) and the threads 28 of the axle pinion gear are adapted to receive a retaining nut (not shown). Fig. 5 is an end, perspective view of a portion of the axle pinion gear of Fig. 2. As mentioned above, the axle pinion gear 29 comprises a threaded end 28, a polygonal surface 30, and at least one bearing surface ~~32~~ 31. Polygonal surface 30 may actually be separated into three portions along its length and along the axis 25 of the shaft. The portions are of preferably of roughly equal length, although this is not required, as will be seen.